

Miscellaneous
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on the World
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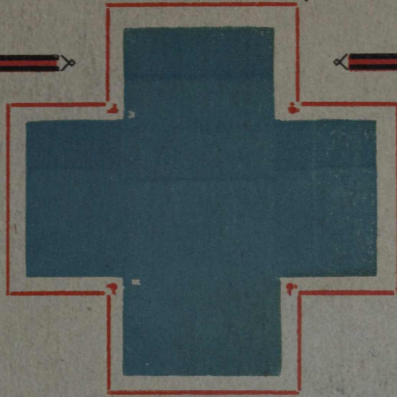


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GIFT OF

Bohemian Nat. Alliance

v. 7, no 4



What the Czechoslovak Red Cross Needs

COMPILED FROM
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v. 7, no. 4



TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS
IN PRAGUE

THE Ministry of Public Hygiene and Physical Culture is grateful to Dr. A. Masaryk, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, for her promise to ask the American Red Cross in Paris for barracks which are very much needed and especially in case of epidemics.

The want of such barracks is immense here, for cases of contagious diseases, especially of small pox and scarlet fever, are increasing—and in some districts have an epidemic character. We fear that this state will even grow worse on account of the repatriation of prisoners and refugees returning from infected countries and escaping from the quarantine, in spite of the most severe control of the government.

We include a list of the most important contagious diseases. The list is made on the basis of weekly reports made by the political administration of the districts. The figures give only the number of new cases of various diseases stated during that week. The data sent from Slovakia arrive somewhat late and are not quite exact.

The only way of fighting against contagious diseases is the isolation of the patients; if possible, in hospitals. It happens, however, that the hospitals have not sufficient room to isolate the patients, or that, by want of means of communication, the patients cannot be transferred to other hospitals.

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In such cases it is advisable to establish, as soon as possible, a hospital in the place where the epidemic breaks in the Czechoslovak Republic.

However, the want of these barracks is immense here. We want them for the isolation of patients who are suspected of contagious diseases. We want them for cases of rabies. It was necessary to found a Pasteur Institute in the District Hospital at Vinohrady (near Prague) for patients with rabies. The number of these cases increased to such a degree, that the Hospital is not able to take care of them.

The Ministry of Hygiene would be grateful if it were possible to get some barracks, which could be directed to the place where they are most needed, and asks for further information to that end.

I. Number of inhabitants:

Bohemia	6,700,000
Moravia	2,620,000
Silesia	760,000
	<hr/>
	10,080,000
Slovakia	2,750,000

Occupied in agriculture in % :

in Bohemia 30% of all inhabitants

in Moravia 46% of all inhabitants

in Silesia 30% of all inhabitants:

in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, together, in absolute numbers, 3,400,000 inhabitants.

Occupied in commerce and

industry 5,300,000 inhabitants

Miners 131,000 inhabitants

with their families. 450,000 inhabitants

II. Natality and mortality during the last years.

Number of children in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia:

Age	Boys	Girls	Together
0- 6.....	497,000.....	488,000.....	985,000
7-10.....	599,000.....	582,000.....	1,181,000
11-13.....	332,000.....	330,000.....	662,000
14-20.....	680,000.....	701,000.....	1,381,000
			<hr/> 4,209,000

Number of children to 14 years, in 1910, in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.....3,440,000
 Decreased number in 1918.....2,848,000
 There are in Prague 58,000 children to 6 years of age and 67,000 children going to public schools.

The Mortality of sucklings increased during the last year of the war in Prague and the suburbs from 14% to 19% and 23%. Mortality of sucklings in Zurich is 7%.

Number of births decreased from 1914 from 5,510 to 2,675 in 1918, which is nearly one-half.

Decrease in the number of children born living in Prague and the suburbs.

To each 1,000 inhabitants:
 1910—1911—1912—1913—1914—1915—1916—1917
 18 17 16 15 14 11 8 7

Since 1914 the number decreased nearly one-half.
 The most remarkable decrease of births is to be seen at Žižkov (suburb town of Prague) as follows:

19101884 births
 1917 594 births
 1918 359 births

A decrease since the year 1910 to one fifth.

The natality of children is decreasing, the mortality increasing. This is best to be seen by some data from the **Bohemian Children's Hospital in Prague**:

Of all children admitted there in 1913 3% died.
 In 191755% died.

Foundling Hospital in Prague:

Mortality in 1914..... 6%
Mortality in 1918.....21%

The great mortality of children is caused by absolute lack of milk.

From all the sucklings in Prague 82% are rachitic, anemic or tubercular.

Relatively greater birth rate or death rate of 0-00 inhabitants:

1910—1911—1912—1913—1914—1915—1916—1917
2.52 1.08 0.76 2.09 0.60 3.63 6.13 9.14

III. Some illustrations as to how mortality increased in general and especially among the tubercular.

a) District of Smichov:

Half of its inhabitants industrial, half agricultural.

Mortality among members of a sick-insurance fund:

1914—of 10,000, 100 members died—of these 36 of tuberculosis.

1918—of 10,000, 200 members died—of these 86 of tuberculosis.

The number of deaths in 1918, twice as great as 1914; deaths caused by tuberculosis remarkably increased.

b) Žižkov.

Number of deaths 1914— 820 persons.

1918—1263 “

among them of tuberculosis

1914—176 persons

1918—270 “

Some data to show how insufficient is the supply of food for the inhabitants of Žižkov:

Supply of beef for one month 36.471 kg.

Want at least 72.000 kg. if calculated at only:

$\frac{1}{4}$ of a kilo for each person a week, which is quite insufficient. There was about 2 dkg. of fat for each person monthly.

c) **Mortality in Great Prague**—Prague and the suburbs—in relative number for each 10,000 inhabitants—military excluded:

1914	1915	1916	1917
30	35	38	41

In a poor-house of Prague:

Out of 300, 150 persons died; that is one-half.

In the Institute for Lunatics, Died in 1914....14%

The mortality increased continuously; in 1918 18%

d) **Situation in Plzeň:**

The mortality increased, especially among grown-up people:

Died in 1913 1541 persons—Of tuberculosis 333

Died in 1918 2342 persons—Of tuberculosis 490

The cause of these additional deaths is the want of food, milk and meat. F. i. in Plzeň the supply of meat for each person was:

For the year 1917.....33 kg.

For the year 1918.....31 kg.

The mortality of the sucklings is 19%.

e) **Kladno:**

Died in 1914:.....285 persons.

Died in 1918:.....336 persons.

Most needed for children and sick persons: 650 liters of milk daily.

Obtainable only 200 liters of milk daily.

f) **Most (Brux):**

Died in 1913: 528 persons. (Military Excepted).

Died in 1918: 824 persons.

Increased mortality caused by tuberculosis and grippe.

The number of births decreased to less than half:

Births in 1913:.....674

Births in 1918:.....310

g) **Duchcov (Dux).**

Situation very difficult. Mortality increases rapidly in consequence of want of food and milk. Persons seriously ill get $\frac{1}{2}$ liter of milk for the whole week.

IV. The situation of food supply is still critical. As for milk, the Common Hospital in Prague received, formerly, for the patients with serious diseases, 500 liters of milk a day; today there are only 50 to 60 liters of milk at their disposal.

In the House of Maternity milk can be given out only to sick children. The ration is 2 liters of milk per day for 5 children.

The milk obtainable for civilian consumption does not even suffice for the sucklings, for whom $\frac{1}{4}$ of a liter is calculated a day per head. There is almost no milk for sick people.

The Total Monthly Want of Milk in towns and industrial centers of the Republic, (the country and small towns with less than 10,000 inhabitants not included—because the want is covered there) for sucklings, children and sick persons, amounts to 15,400,000 liters of milk.

THERE IS AN IMMENSE LACK OF CLOTHING.

For instance, at Kladno alone, the need of clothing for miners and their families is:

30,000 suits or 95,000 meters of material
For Women 100,000 meters of material
For Boys... 75,000 meters of material
For Girls... 75,000 meters of material

345,000 meters of material
170,000 meters of lining material

For the District of Smichov the need is 4,000 meters of material for clothing. Similar needs everywhere.

Need of Linen—Very necessary, especially of bed cloth for hospitals and other institutions.

Need of Soap—

At Kladno:.....600 q a month

At Žižkov:.....80 q a month

Need of Agricultural Manure or raw material for the production of it, which ought to be imported:

About 5,000 wagons of Chili Saltpetre.

15,000 wagons of phosphates.

5,000 wagons of ore for the production of superphosphates;

at the prices enabling the most considerable use of artificial manure among the largest classes of agriculturists.

V. Number of Hospitals and Beds in the Czechoslovak Republic:

Country	Hospitals	Beds	Lunatic Asylums	Beds	Maternity Houses	Beds	Total Institutions
Bohemia..	183	14,000	10	7,000	1	527	194
Moravia ..	61	4,900	4	2,800	2	209	67
Silesia....	30	1,700	1	800	—	—	—
Slovakia..	30	4,000	—	—	—	—	30
	304	24,600	15	10,600	3	736	322

Country	Total Beds
Bohemia	21,527
Moravia	7,909
Silesia	2,500
Slovakia	4,000
	35,936

Care of the tuberculous

Number of Dispensaries for the care of the tuberculous.....	18
Number of Medical Institutions.....	13
Number of Beds.....	1397

To be established in Bohemia.

- 14 Dispensaries for taking care of the tuberculous and
- 20 Medical Institutions—which depends only on the financial situation.

VI. Institutions for taking care of children.

Bohemia—Moravia—Total

Organization for taking care of orphans.....	150	76	226
Orphan Houses, Colonies and Asylums	96	65	161
Children's Asylums	360	60	420
Kindergardens	350	138	488
Special Institutions ..	36	13	49
Soup Kitchens	1800	64	1864
Relief Organizations in general	360	170	530
Total	3152	586	3738

Stations for Vaccination against Rabies Pasteur Institute

Report of April 18, 1919. Actual State

A—At the District Hospital of Vinohrady, near Prague, the following rooms have been given for the purpose of this station:

- 2 Rooms—One for 8, the other for 5 Beds.
- 2 Rooms—For a Laboratory—520x240 cm—Impossible because too small.
- 1 Room—520x240 cm for Nurses.
- 1 Small Room—For Linen, which is also used as lavatory for vessels.
- 1 Small Bathroom.

B—The patients are placed as follows:

Every room supplied with an additional bed. Thus the beds are put side by side so that they form one berth. Only in this way was it possible to place 35 patients on these 15 beds. Two beds are standing in the corridor. One patient was to be placed in the bath tub. The other patients, who could not find private rooms in the town, had to be transferred to the Department of Internal Diseases at the Hospital in Vinohrady. This is causing great difficulties, this section being overfilled to such a degree than even serious cases must be rejected.

Some Illustrations of the State of the Institute:

April 5th 1919

State in the Hospital	44	Ambulatives	12	Total	56
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April 5th 1919

Cases left in the Hos.	4	Ambulatives	1
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Arrived in Hospital	6	Ambulatives	5
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(Total Increase 11)

April 6th 1919

State in the Hospital	46	Ambulatives	16	Total	62
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Cases left in the Hos.	2	Ambulatives	1
------------------------	---	-------------	---

Arrived in the Hosp.	—	Ambulatives	2
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April 7th 1919

State in the Hospital	44	Ambulatives	17	Total	61
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Cases left the Hos.	—	Ambulatives	1
---------------------	---	-------------	---

Arrived in the Hosp.	10	Ambulatives	1
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Total increases 11

April 8th 1919

State in the Hospital	54	Ambulatives	15	Total	69
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Cases left the Hos.	5	Ambulatives	1
---------------------	---	-------------	---

Arrived in the Hos.	—	Ambulatives	3
---------------------	---	-------------	---

April 9th 1919

State in the Hospital	49	Ambulatives	17	Total	66
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April 10th 1919

State in the Hospital	51	Ambulatives	18	Total	69
-----------------------	----	-------------	----	-------	----

April 11th 1919

State in the Hospital	52	Ambulatives	19	Total	71
-----------------------	----	-------------	----	-------	----

April 12th 1919

State in the Hospital 51 Ambulatives 22 Total 73

April 13th 1919

State in the Hospital 51 Ambulatives 23 Total 74

April 14th 1919

State in the Hospital 55 Ambulatives 21 Total 76

April 15th 1919

State in the Hospital 51 Ambulatives 22 Total 73

April 16th 1919

State in the Hospital 49 Ambulatives 22 Total 71

April 17th 1919

State in the Hospital 45 Ambulatives 25 Total 70

April 18th 1919

State in the Hospital 39 Ambulatives 24 Total 63

C— Equipment of the Laboratories

The laboratories, for which only 2 small rooms are reserved, 520x240 cm, with one window each, have no medical equipment at all; what they have is absolutely primitive. They contain, tables excepted.

- 1 Electric Sterilizer for Instruments (Borrowed)
- 1 Spirit Boiler
- 1 Tin Basin for Sterilizing of Squirt
- 2 Small Tin Pots for Sterilizing of Injection

- 2 Spirit Lamps
- 2 Injection Squirts
- 2 doz. Needles
- 2 Pincers—2 peans—1 pr. Bandage Scissors

OUR CHILDREN

are a fine lot of undernourished human beings, with touching enthusiasm and great possibilities. The women the mothers behaved as bravely as the old Greeks. It is not a cheap phrase, I hate to state it, but I can't help it, so I do it. The Germans tried to stir up riots, in times when no food came in and

all was exhausted. Pale as they were, their children crying for hunger, the mothers kept their noble calm spirit, which firm faith and great love enabled them to preserve.

Under those conditions in the hard struggle for living, the spiritual side of the children was neglected and we have to try to help physically and mentally and morally.

1. Physically—Mr. Hoover's Mission is helping. Some soap ought to be sent in for the institutions for children. This physical help is the only foundation to help the children morally.

Organization without food is almost comical, food without organization that follows high aims falls short of permanent benefit.

2. Organizations are being started "the little legionaries" or "little Hussites", who in historic times were called God's warriors. The little legionaries wish to stand up for justice and truth and the democratic spirit—that means they have to **love work**—the creative work of the new world, not the sweatshop labor of the passed era. This point of view is a solution for coming years, an absolute safeguard against Bolshevism, the vague egoism of idleness. Shallow egoism must stop before an organization founded on truth and love of work.

We have Boys Scouts and students for this organization. We started 6 weeks ago and have one regiment with a boy scout colony. We have no **tents for scouts**. We want to organize scouts for **social work**, of this constructive type. We want to do it in the spirit of nature—which is all beauty and positiveness—we do not believe in preaching "don't do it"—we believe in singing "we do this".—We believe that the boys and girls that live in nature preparing for social work, will bring with them spiritual fresh air to the broken hearts kept in four walls.

We need 50 tents.

After a week in the country the boys and girls will be sent to the peasants who will be asked to take in children from the cities. The "**Bohemian Heart**" placed in this way last year about 25,000 children. This year the peasants seemed to slacken in their efforts, and we want to make them romantic enough so as to be able to help even in seemingly settled conditions.

Babies and sick children.

Babies. Babies just born have no linen and are wrapped in paper, pretty often.

We need old linen and underwear to make babies' clothes. We need it for about 200,000 babies.

We have a very good organization "Care of mothers and babies", Mr. Groh, Director of the Red Cross Prague III, is the secretary of it.

Sick children

When we worked and tried at home we hardly realized the condition—and I have to confess, when I saw really healthy, rosy children after so many years, only then I realized what we went through so gladly and I have a physical pain in my heart, which seems rather peculiar, but may be explained as a reaction.

Tuberculous children

Our tuberculous children do not have **where to die**—I know many cases, where the child had to be put in a still warm bed of a dead child. In the hospital of Prague sick children have to be daily rejected.

In hospital, children have no proper **bed linen, no underwear, no soap.**

In the greatest clinic there is no X Ray.

Bandages of all kinds are badly needed for adults, too.

Schools—visited by me.

Vršovice near Prague.

Statistics.	Number of children.
Children to 2 years.....	700
Children from 2 to 3 years.....	150
Children from 3 to 6 years.....	2,000
In public schools.	
Children from 6 to 11 years.....	3,046
Children from 11 to 14 years.....	951
	<hr/> 6,847

The kitchen established in one of the Vršovice public schools gives out 1500 rations of soup every day. If there was a sufficient supply of food, 3000 rations could be given every day and, besides, 600 liter of cacao.

Besides, there are 3 kitchens for poor people established during the war. They cook for 600 persons. Supply of food not great enough. Meat twice a week. Price of dinner 70 hallers, expense of the kitchen, 1 48, therefore deficit. The dinner consists of soup, potatoes and other vegetables, sometimes meals of flour and fruit. No rice, no milk, no macaroni. From April 20 to 27, there was no bread given out in the whole town of Vršovice.

In the 3 Kindergardens of Vršovice 300 to 400 children between the ages of 4 to 6 years are placed. The expenses for each child are 400 K a year, paid by the community.

Anaemic children

We would like to send from 500 to 1000 children to Switzerland—weak children, undernourished, but **not** actually sick. With each 15 children we intend to send an undernourished student and the healthy, robust scouts will head the whole expedition. The entire cost for two months for 500 children is 180,000 Frs., for 1000 children 360,000 Frs.

We would like to get all printed matter about the Junior Red Cross.

We would like to get suitable moving pictures.
We have a kinema for the little legionaries weekly,
showing life in the nature.

We need this badly

50 tents for camping out.
Some for 2.
Some for 4.
Some for 6.

Hospital Linen

night gowns
bed linen
underwear for 5,000 children
soap, 10 cars
X Ray apparatus
bandages of all kinds
old linen to make clothes for 200,000 babies

150,000 to 300,000 Frns. to send children to Switzerland.

This we need specially because we will make an appeal to the Bohemian farmers and if we can say what the United States has done, it will make our appeal irresistible.

We appreciate very much the spirit of the United States, and though we need this help very badly, we will not despair, we are thankful anyhow.

Tuberculosis is one of the most serious problems of Czecho-Slovakia, it is specially serious in Prague.

It is an **old problem** intensified by the war.

Among children **open** tuberculosis is frequent now, it did not use to be.

The government physicians woke to the understanding that there has to be a **national movement** against tuberculosis and that public opinion has to be awakened.

The men, who are leaders in this national movement are:

Dr. J. Hamza, who represents it in the ministry of Hygiene, Prague III.

Dr. L. Prochazka, who is the physician in chief of Prague, Municipal Hall, Prague I.

The organizations which worked against tuberculosis are:

1. "Spolek pro potírání nemocí plicních" which has several institutions, all of these are short of proper food.

Several places, in which a physician gives medical advice free of charge.

2. A working man's antitubercular organization lays stress in awakening the working men and does not start large institutions.

3. The Red Cross has the tendency to simplify work.

It has had a meeting of all organizations which come in contact with the question of tuberculosis and it tries to help in building up a spirit of cooperation.

The City of Prague under the leadership of Mr. Prochazka plans a special treatment of the tubercular patients on one of the expropriated estates of the Exemperor; Mr. Prochazka has worked out a minute plan, that can be sent in.

The organization that will be of great use in the work against tuberculosis are:

Scouts

Sokols—Gymnastics

Firemen, 200,000 people

Students.

Permanent great needs.

Pasteur Institute.

Hospital for Tubercular.

We want to have our state put on a firm basis of expert, scientific work, no dilettantism or "goody" enthusiasm; we believe in clear business-like idealism for the transition period. The idealism never will leave Czechoslovakia—but now we need all hands on deck to save many thousands of bare lives.

We know that America can help directly and indirectly, and her help will have a very distinct effect on the whole administration.

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Contagious diseases.

Tents for 500 cases.

What the American Red Cross could do for us.

- I. Send an expert and good organizer, who
 1. would help in the new League, which does not have extensive practical experience in organization, though it has many fine workers and specialists.
 2. make a survey of antitubercular work—institutions etc.
- II. Give Dr. Hamza an opportunity to see all the Red Cross has done in France, all the methods of organization.
- III. Send tents for 500 tubercular patients in Prague, who at present are in overcrowded families.
 - a—cannot get well, 250.
 - b—are a menace to the family—open tuberculosis, 250 cases.We have a place in the Hospital of Vinohrady, "Vinohradská nemocnice" to put up the tents.
- IV. Give some condensed milk to the sanatoriums at Ples and at Žamberk.
- V. Send a few cinemas, which show the importance of cleanliness, the life of bacilli etc.
- VI. Send all printed matter and pictures, which can be used in publicity.

Gzechoslovak Red Cross.

Praha III., Karmelitská 17.

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